

# NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES



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Canadian Moravian Historical Society, Edmonton Chapter  
2303-38 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6L 4K9

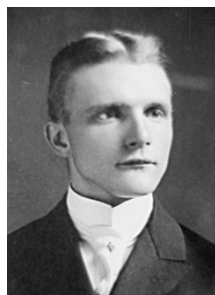
## What Have We Been Up To?

The Society Board had a busy 2014. The Annual Dinner Meeting on April 12th was a success. It was covered in the September 2014 newsletter. Three meetings have been held since that time. Besides the routine review of reports, items such as support of the museum, ongoing membership in the Archives Society of Alberta, membership and make-up of the Board and the on-going problem with the diminishing membership of the Historical Society were discussed.

Over the summer, archives clean-up days were scheduled and irrelevant material was removed. Archival records, photos and documents were reorganized into smaller boxes to allow easier handling of the material. Thanks to those board members that spent time in the vault and completed the work.

## Annual Dinner

The 33rd Annual Dinner Meeting of the Canadian Moravian Historical Society is scheduled for April 18, 2015, at the Millwoods Community Church in Edmonton. The presentation will be on Rev. William Schwartz. Rev. Schwartz worked with Rev. Clement Hoyler in the founding of the Moravian Churches in Alberta, 1896 - 1900. Bill Brese has agreed to provide a presentation on the times and work of Rev. Schwartz.



Rev. William  
Schwartz

The Board agreed to reduce the price of the dinner tickets. They negotiated with the Jasper Place High School, which has a culinary class, to have them provide a soup and sandwich luncheon. The cost will be significantly less than the full meals provided at previous meetings. Ticket are priced at \$12.

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## Canadian District Conference

### 50 years ago.

The 1965 Canadian District Conference was held July 1-4 at Camp VanEs. The previous week had been extremely wet, with near record rainfall, but Conference week dawned with plenty of sun which held for the rest of the week. Thirty-nine official delegates and a large number of visitors displayed determined optimism with a spirit of change and brotherly love as they gathered for inspiration, fellowship and business. The mood was expressed at the closing service by Dr. S. Ivan Smith, faculty member of the University of Alberta in his address "A World of Change and the Church Within It."

Rev. Samuel Wedman opened the Conference with communion. Dr. F.P. Stocker was elected as permanent chairman; Rev. P.R. Henkelman, vice-chairman; and Rev. Eric Schulze, secretary. Committees for Church Government, Christian Education and Finance were formed and chairpersons elected. Presentations were made and conversations held around 'What We Expect of a Minister' and 'Church and the Changing Community'. Bro. Stocker provided a slide and commentary on the Moravian work in Africa.

Business sessions were held with topics such as: authorized use of district funds, on-going fellowship with Labrador Moravians, tenure for the District Board,  
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District Conference - cont from page 1

a stewardship education program and direction for church extension was discussed. The Christian Education Commission was directed to construct a new dining hall and kitchen at camp. Concern was expressed over the lack of trained clergy for the pastoral ministry and its impact on the growth of the Canadian District and new Canadian Moravian Churches.



Dr. Stocker

Dr. Stocker gave the Sunday morning message and challenged the Canadian Church to greater activity. In summary he stated that we must plan, pray and work together. We must seek God's message for our generation and become better stewards by using our abundances for the work of God. We are challenged to move ahead. But to do so require a vision for the future at all levels...among our board, clergy and membership. from article by Rev. J. LaFortune

salary by supplying basic items such as meat, sausage, fish, flour and butter.

### 75 years ago

By 1940 the number of communicants was back up to 164 from a slight down-turn in the intervening years. Pastor Wedman reported that his predecessor, Rev. Wolff, had started a Young People's Society which was very successful and well attended. A number of the young people had turned to Christ and



Rev. Wedman

several were considering mission service. Problems with the usage of German vs. English were arising. The morning service was held in German, youth meetings in English and Sunday School in both. Sunday School attendance was a problem. To quote the Annual Report, "chiefly because of the difficulty of getting dairy farmers up and to church on time." Major church improvements were accomplished to include a complete building renovation, a new deep well, new fences and a new storage barn.

### First Bruderfeld Church - 1895



This house was owned by Andreas Stoltz. The Bruderfeld Church was organized in this building in 1895 by Andreas Lilge. Services were held in the middle room. The rest of the structure was fixed up in December 1896 for the first Christmas celebration. Services were held in the building for two years, until the completion of the first church in 1897.

## Bruderfeld

### 100 years ago

In 1915 the Bruderfeld Church was experiencing slow but steady growth. The total number of church members increased from 301 to 306 members with 164 communicants and the Sunday School with 134 enrollees. All services and church meetings were held in German. The pastor, Rev. Suemper, made regular home visits by horse and buggy. Feed for his horse was provided by the congregation. The members of the congregation were very poor but still able to supplement the pastors small



Rev. Suemper

## Heimtal

### 50 years ago

1965 was a year of growth for the Heimtal Moravian Church. Rev. Joseph LaFortune was the pastor and the church membership increased from 120 to 136, by year's end. It was noted in the Annual Report that 'Despite a number of members who have moved to other locales, a very severe winter and unusual sag in summer attendance, the numbers have shown a continuing increase.' The Sunday School was active with an average attendance of 52.

In an effort to upgrade the church, bids were solicited on a complete water system for the church. Two bids were received with variations in price, depending on the cistern type and options. Bids varied from \$1800 to \$2500. Bids were also solicited for new pews. Two bids were also received for that project.



Rev. LaFortune

The Board decided not to make recommendations or move forward with either project.

The Couples Club was active with outings for bowling, curling, volleyball and family picnics with games. The Youth Fellowship was also very active and held joint meetings every second Sunday with the Bruderfeld youth.

The Christian Education Committee facilitated a change-over into the Covenant Life Curriculum for all levels of the Church School. Several of the teachers attended Leadership Education Training sponsored by the District Conference. The change was met with energetic acceptance and success.

The Women's Fellowship was very active with an average monthly meeting attendance of sixteen. Several service projects such as: collecting donations for the Rehabilitation Center; providing lunches at two auction sales; collection of used clothes, Christmas gifts and Sunday School material for the Alaska Mission and Children's Home and donations of food and gifts for Oliver Hospital and the food. They also sponsored

several events and raised money for mission projects, the church rug replacement fund and other and efforts.



Heimtal Women's Fellowship - 1970

## Calgary Christ Church

### 50 years ago

In the summer of 1965 the Canadian District Board requested that Rev. Llewellyn Thomas be called to serve as the organizing pastor for a new congregation in South Calgary. Efforts to start the church began four years earlier when the Provincial Synod reviewed a study by Brethren Percy Henkelman, Floyd Peterson and others that looked into the need for a Moravian church in South Calgary. The board authorized that land be purchased in an area in which a large number of new homes were being constructed. Suitable land was found and in 1964 a down payment was made on the property.



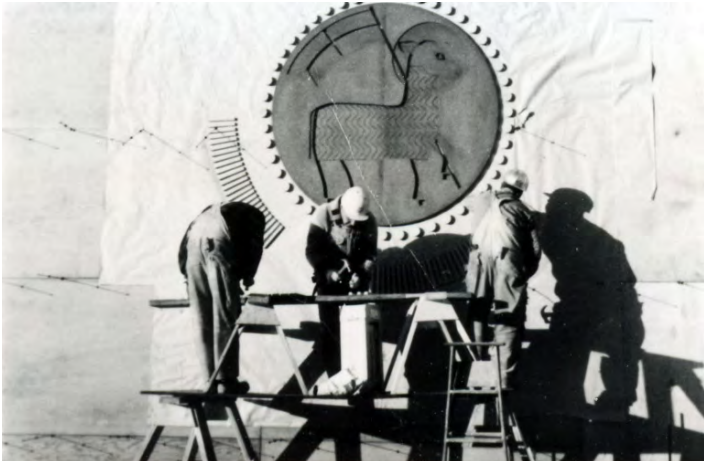
Ground breaking for the Christ Church with Rev. Thomas

Christ Church - cont from page 3

Upon accepting the call, Rev. Thomas along with Rev. Henkelman, Rev. Loppnow and Rev. Stocker performed a careful inspection of the area. They found and agreed to purchase a new home on Willow Park Drive to serve as the parsonage. They paid \$22,000 for the house and property. It was agreed to press forward as quickly as possible with the acquisition of title to the church site and a vacant lot that adjoined the church site. The price of the Church site was \$25,000 and the adjacent lot \$3,450.

The establishment of the church continued with the completion and consecration of the church building in 1967. The congregation was formally organized with sixty-eight charter members in 1969.

Placing the Moravian Seal on the front of the new Calgary Church



### Canadian District Pastors - 1965 (50 years ago)

Bruderheim - Rev. Eric Schulze  
 Bruderfeld (Millwoods) - Rev. John Johansen  
 Heimtal - Rev. Joseph LaFortune  
 Calgary (Central Moravian) - Rev. Alan Taylor  
 Edmonton (Strathcona) - Rev. Edward Ulrich  
 Calgary Christ Church - Rev. Llewellyn Thomas  
 Rio Terrace - Rev. Percy Henkelman  
 New Sarepta - Rev. Joseph Lafortune  
 Vancouver - Jens Hansen  
 Hobbema - Rev. John Johansen

### New Sarepta - 100 years ago

The pastor at the New Sarepta Moravian Church in 1915 was Rev. Reinhold Reimer. Since pay was meager, the ministers at that time had to supplement their income with support or donations from their congregations. Game was abundant and hunting was an option for putting food on the table. The following photo is of Rev. Reimer and E. Drebert after a successful hunt near New Sarepta. The photo was taken in approximately 1911.



### Following is a listing of the Canadian Moravian Historical Society (Edmonton Chapter) Board

President - Laurie Ward, wornout@telus.net  
 Vice President - Ruth Humphreys, drruth3@gmail.com  
 Secretary - Sandra Smith, eesmith@telusplanet.net  
 Treasurer - Donna Goodwin  
 Directors - Kerry and Elaine Bloomer  
               Brian Pemberton  
               Robert Voelker  
               Esther Vitt-Gonzalez  
 BECD Representative - Rev. Rebecca Carver  
 Archivist - Bill Brese  
               780-440-3050, wbrese@interbaun.com  
 Other - Joel Henkelman, jhenkelm@yahoo.com

### Notes from the Archives

This is the second edition of our newsletter "Notes from the Archives." Our goal is to provide a document that is of interest and applicability to the greater Canadian Moravian community. If you have something you would like to see included, or you would like to be involved in its publication, let Joel Henkelman or one of the other CMHS Board members know. Background material and photos seen in these publications is available in the Canadian Moravian Archives.

